## Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims

1-26    Canceled

27.    (New)  An image data or electronic clinical chart management method by a storage company that comprises a server connected to a terminal of a medical institution via the Internet, and is entrusted by said medical institution with a management of an image data generated by a diagnostic instrument of said medical institution or an electronic clinical chart at said medical institution, said management method comprising the steps of:

recording said image data or electronic clinical chart onto a recording medium by the terminal of said medical institution, receiving said recording medium from said medical institution, and storing said recording medium in a warehouse of said storage company;

storing in a storage device of said storage company a customer identifier (ID) for identifying said medical institution and a deposit ID for identifying said recording medium, by associating said IDs with said recording medium;

assigning said customer and deposit IDs to said medical institution;

receiving a retrieval request of said image data or electronic clinical chart from the terminal of said medical institution, said retrieval request containing therein said customer and deposit IDs;

comparing said customer ID contained in said retrieval request with said customer ID stored in said storage device, and rejecting said retrieval request if said two customer IDs are not substantially the same;

searching said warehouse for said recording medium based on said deposit ID contained in said retrieval request;

reproducing said image data or electronic clinical chart from said recording medium retrieved; and

sending said image data or electronic clinical chart reproduced to the terminal of said medical institution via the Internet.

28.    (New)  The management method according to claim 1, wherein a DVD is used as

said recording medium; and

when recording said image data or electronic clinical chart on the DVD, encrypting said image data or electronic clinical chart by using the unique ID of the DVD; and

when reproducing said image data or electronic clinical chart from the DVD, decrypting said image data or electronic clinical chart by using the unique ID of the DVD.

29.    (New)  An image data management method by a storage company that comprises a server connected to terminals of a medical institution and an analyzing person via the Internet, and is entrusted by said medical institution with a management of an image data generated by a diagnostic instrument of said medical institution, said management method comprising the steps of:

receiving said image data from said medical institution, and storing said image data in an electronic warehouse of said storage company;

storing in a storage device of said storage company a customer ID for identifying said medical institution, a deposit ID for identifying said image data, and data identifying a individual patient of said medical institution, by associating said IDs and the data identifying said individual patient with said image data;

assigning said customer and deposit IDs to said medical institution;

receiving an analysis request of said image data from the terminal of said medical institution, said analysis request containing therein said customer and deposit IDs;

comparing said customer ID contained in said analysis request with said customer ID stored in said storage device, and rejecting said analysis request if said two customer IDs are not substantially the same;

searching said electronic warehouse for said image data based on said deposit ID contained in said analysis request;

eliminating data identifying said individual patient from said image data retrieved, and attaching said deposit ID to said image data retrieved;

sending said image data to which said deposit ID is attached to the terminal of said analyzing person via the Internet;

receiving from said analyzing person a result of analysis of said image data sent to the terminal of said analyzing person, and storing said result of analysis in said electronic warehouse;

storing in said storage device said customer ID, said deposit ID, and the data identifying said individual patient, by associating said IDs and data with said result of analysis;

receiving a retrieval request of said image data or said result of analysis from the terminal of said medical institution, said retrieval request containing therein said customer and deposit IDs;

comparing said customer ID contained in said retrieval request with said customer ID stored in said storage device, and rejecting said retrieval request if said two customer IDs are not substantially the same;

searching said electronic warehouse for said image data or said result of analysis, based on said deposit ID contained in said retrieval request; and

sending said image data or said result of analysis to the terminal of said medical institution via the Internet.

30.     (New) The management method according to claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

presenting a list of a plurality of said analyzing persons to the terminal of said medical institution; and

making said medical institution select at least one analyzing person from among said plurality of analyzing persons, and wherein:

said image data to which said deposit ID is attached is sent to the terminal of said selected analyzing person.

31.     (New) An image data management method by a storage company that comprises a server connected to terminals of a medical institution, a patient of said medical institution, and an analyzing person via the Internet, and is entrusted by said medical institution with a management of an image data generated by a diagnostic instrument of said medical institution, said management method comprising the steps of:

receiving said image data from said medical institution, and storing said image data in an electronic warehouse of said storage company;

storing in a storage device of said storage company a deposit ID for identifying said image data, and data identifying said individual patient including a patient ID for

identifying said patient, by associating said deposit ID and the data identifying said individual patient with said image data;

assigning said deposit and patient IDs to said medical institution;

receiving a analysis request of said image data from the terminal of said patient, said analysis request containing therein said deposit and patient IDs;

comparing said patient ID contained in said analysis request with said patient ID stored in said storage device, and rejecting said analysis request if said two patient IDs are not substantially the same;

searching said electronic warehouse for said image data based on said deposit ID contained in said analysis request;

eliminating data identifying said individual patient from said image data retrieved, and attaching said deposit ID to said image data retrieved;

sending said image data to which said deposit ID is attached to the terminal of said analyzing person via the Internet;

receiving from said analyzing person a result of analysis of said image data sent to the terminal of said analyzing person, and storing said result of analysis in said electronic warehouse;

storing in said storage device said deposit ID and the data identifying said individual patient, by associating said ID and data with said result of analysis;

receiving a retrieval request of said result of analysis from the terminal of said patient, said retrieval request containing therein said deposit and patient IDs;

comparing said patient ID contained in said retrieval request with said patient ID stored in said storage device, and rejecting said retrieval request if said two patient IDs are not substantially the same;

searching said electronic warehouse for said result of analysis, based on said deposit ID contained in said retrieval request; and

sending said result of analysis to the terminal of said patient via the Internet.

32.     (New) The management method according to claim 31, further comprising the steps of:

presenting a list of a plurality of said analyzing persons to the terminal of

said patient; and

    making said patient select at least one analyzing person from among said plurality of analyzing persons, and wherein:

    said image data to which said deposit ID is attached is sent to the terminal of said selected analyzing person.